

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) An intelligibility measurement system, comprising in combination:
- a means for hearing a speaker who is repeating items;
 - a means for preparing a transcription of what was heard by the means for hearing;
 - a means for comparing the items with the transcription; and
 - a means for measuring intelligibility coupled to the comparing means.
2. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the speaker is at least one person whose intelligibility is to be measured.
3. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein a listener hears the speaker repeating the items.
4. (previously presented) The system of Claim 3, wherein the listener is a plurality of people capable of listening.
5. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the items are words.
6. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the transcription is a written copy of what a listener heard when the speaker repeated the items.

7. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein an error count is determined by comparing the items with the transcription.

8. (previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein the error count is determined by evaluating factors selected from the group consisting of word insertions, word deletions, and word substitutions.

9. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein an intelligibility score is determined by evaluating factors selected from the group consisting of error count, difficulty of the items, and ability of a listener.

10. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein Item Response Theory is used to determine an intelligibility score.

11. (currently amended) An intelligibility measurement system, comprising in combination:

a speaker that repeats items;

a listener that hears the speaker repeating the items; and

a measurement unit operable to determine an intelligibility score of the speaker [using] by comparing the items and a transcription of what the listener hears when the speaker repeats the items.

12. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the speaker is at least one person whose intelligibility is to be measured.

13. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the listener is a plurality of people capable of listening.

14. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the listener is selected based on certain background characteristics.

15. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the transcription is a written copy of what the listener heard when the speaker repeated the items.

16. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the items are words.

17. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein an error count is determined by comparing the items with the transcription.

18. (previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the error count is determined by evaluating factors selected from the group consisting of word insertions, word deletions, and word substitutions.

19. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the intelligibility score is determined by evaluating factors selected from the group consisting of error count, difficulty of the items, and ability of the listener.

20. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the measurement unit uses Item Response Theory to determine the intelligibility score.

21. (previously presented) An intelligibility measurement system, comprising in combination:

a speaker whose intelligibility is to be measured;

a listener that hears the speaker repeat words; and

a measurement unit operable to determine an intelligibility score of the speaker using a transcription of what the listener hears, wherein the transcription is a written copy of what the listener heard when the speaker repeated the words, wherein an error count is determined by comparing the words with the transcription, and wherein the measurement unit uses Item Response Theory to determine the intelligibility score.

22. (previously presented) The system of Claim 21, wherein the error count is determined by evaluating factors selected from the group consisting of word insertions, word deletions, and word substitutions.

23. (previously presented) The system of Claim 21, wherein the intelligibility score is determined by evaluating factors selected from the group consisting of error count, difficulty of the items, and ability of the listener.

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24. (currently amended) A method of measuring intelligibility, comprising in combination:
obtaining responses from a speaker repeating items;
presenting the responses to a listener;
creating a transcription of what the listener hears when listening to the responses from the speaker;
measuring accuracy by comparing the items with the transcription; and
determining an intelligibility score of the speaker based on at least in part on the measuring step.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the speaker is at least one person whose intelligibility is to be measured.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) The method of Claim [27] 24, wherein the items are words.

29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the listener is a plurality of people capable of listening.

30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the listener hears the speaker's responses.

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising determining an error count by comparing items with a transcription of what the listener heard.

33. (previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the error count is determined by evaluating factors selected from the group consisting of word insertions, word deletions, and word substitutions.

34. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the intelligibility score is determined by evaluating factors selected from the group consisting of error count, difficulty of items, and ability of the listener.

35. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein Item Response Theory is used to determine the intelligibility score.

36. (currently amended) An automated intelligibility measurement system, comprising in combination:

a speaker that provides a response by repeating items;

a listener that provides a repetition of what the listener heard when listening to the speaker repeating the items;

a database that contains speaker responses, items, and listener repetitions; and

a nonlinear model operable to provide an intelligibility estimate of the speaker's intelligibility by comparing the items and the listener repetitions contained in the database.

37. (previously presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein the speaker is at least one person whose intelligibility is to be measured.

38. (previously presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein the database contains data from previous intelligibility evaluations.

39. (canceled)

40. (previously presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein the nonlinear model is a neural network.

41. (previously presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein the intelligibility score is an objective measurement of the speaker's intelligibility.

42. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the intelligibility score is an objective measurement of the speaker's intelligibility.

43. (previously presented) The system of Claim 21, wherein the intelligibility score is an objective measurement of the speaker's intelligibility.

44. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the intelligibility score is an objective measurement of the speaker's intelligibility.